

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
December 11, 2002

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: Administrative Assessment of Civil Liability containing a Mandatory Minimum Penalty against Rancho California Water District for violation of Order No. 2001-0096, NPDES Permit No. CAG919002, for Discharges of Groundwater Extraction Waste Discharges from Construction, Remediation and Permanent Groundwater Extraction Projects to Surface Waters within the San Diego Region, except for San Diego Bay. The Regional Board will consider comments received during the public review period and decide on an Order accepting payment of the proposed liability and waiver of hearing. (Tentative Order No. R9-2002-0378) (Sherrie Komeylyan)

PURPOSE: The Regional Board will decide whether to adopt tentative Order No. R9-2002-0378 (Attachment 1) accepting settlement of civil liability in the amount of \$3,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE: On October 27, 2002, the public was informed of the proposed settlement of liability by posting this notice on the Regional Board web site. Public notification for this item was also provided via the Regional Board Agenda Notice for the November 13, 2002 meeting. As of November 25, 2002, no comments concerning the settlement of liability have been received.

DISCUSSION: On September 18, 2002, the Executive Officer issued Complaint No. R9-2002-0296 (Attachment 2) to Rancho California Water District (RCWD) for violations of Order No. 2001-96. RCWD reported one serious violation of total phosphorus within a three-month period (April 2002 through June 2002). On September 27, 2002 RCWD signed and submitted a waiver of hearing form agreeing to the terms of the Complaint (Attachment 3). RCWD at that same time submitted a check in the amount of \$3,000 for payment of their mandatory minimum penalties.

The discharge consists of potable grade groundwater from Well No. 121, which is purged from the pumps during daily start up and shut down activities. The purged water goes through an outfall structure to Santa Gertrudis Creek. Well No. 121 provides potable water to be used in the RCWD service area. The average volume

of groundwater discharged is approximately 2,181 gallons per minute, for five minutes – twice per day (21,810 gallons per day).

If the Regional Board does not adopt the tentative Order, a hearing will be rescheduled for a future Regional Board meeting.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

- (1) Tentative Order No. R9-2002-0378
Table 1 – Violation Summary for Rancho California
Water District – Well No. 121 discharge to Santa
Gertrudis Creek, Temecula, CA
- (2) Complaint No. R9-2002-0296
Attachment 1 – Summary of violations
Attachment 2 - Excerpts from monitoring reports (2 pages)
- (3) Waiver of Hearing Form
- (4) Location Map

RECOMMENDATION(S) Staff recommends adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2002-0378.